

Serial No.: 09/815,891
Examiner: Yogesh C. Garg

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-9, 13-20, 22, 23, 25-29 remain in this application with claims 1, 9, 13, and 23 being independent claims. Claims 11, 12, 21, 24, and 30-32 have been canceled. Claims 1, 13, 23, 25, and 27-29 have been amended.

The Examiner has acknowledged that claim 9 is directed to allowable subject matter and that claims 11, 15, 21, 26, 30, 33 and 34 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the rejected base claim and any intervening claims. The Examiner has also stated that claims 27 and 29 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Regarding independent claim 1, Applicants have amended claim 1 to substantially include the limitations of claim 11, which was indicated to be allowable if rewritten accordingly. Therefore Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of this claim be withdrawn.

Regarding claims 2-8, 33 and 34, as these claims depend either directly or indirectly from independent claim 1, and therefore incorporate all the limitations therein, for the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claim 1, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims are also in condition for allowance.

Regarding independent claim 23, Applicants have amended claim 23 to substantially include the limitations of claims 24 and 30, which were indicated to be allowable if rewritten accordingly. Therefore Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of this claim be withdrawn.

Regarding claims 25-29, as these claims depend either directly or indirectly from independent claim 23, and therefore incorporate all the limitations therein, for the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claim 23, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims are also in condition for allowance.

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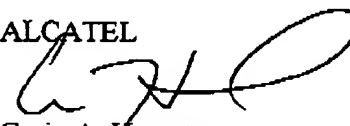
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Regarding the rejection of claims 27 and 29 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims as now present overcome this rejection, and full allowance is requested.

It is believed that the foregoing amendment places the Application in condition for allowance; therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection of the claims, and full allowance of same. Should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned to expeditiously resolve any outstanding issues.

Respectfully submitted,

ALCATEL



Craig A. Hoersten
Reg. No. 38,917

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Alcatel
Intellectual Property Department
3400 W. Plano Parkway, M/S LEGL2
Plano, TX 75075
Phone: (972) 519-5143
Fax: (972) 477-9328